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## CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

### 24-HOUR REPORT

**19 DECEMBER 2017**

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#### (U) CALIFORNIA

##### **(U) Hayward – Credit Card Skimmers Found Installed at Two Hayward ATMs**

(U) A Chevron employee thwarted two would-be thieves attempting to install skimmers on ATM card readers to steal credit card information from customers. An officer also discovered that one of the thieves had also installed a camera in a side panel of the ATM. The point of the false panel is purportedly to capture pin numbers as they're inputted on the keypad. The technology behind credit card skimming has become more sophisticated in recent months. Authorities estimate that thieves are making away with around \$2 billion in fraudulent charges around the world, thanks to new ways to create theft devices mostly undetectable to the average person. Police recommend that ATM users look for cues that a machine looks off before using and to always cover the keypad when entering a pin number.

SOURCE: 18 December 2017, [SF Gate](#)

#### (U) NATIONAL

##### **(U) District of Columbia – US Bars Drones Over Nuclear Sites for Security Reasons**

(U) Washington DC – The Federal Aviation Administration said yesterday it will bar drone flights over seven major US nuclear sites, including Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico. The move is the latest in a series of growing restrictions on unmanned aerial vehicles over US sites that have national security implications. The new restrictions begin on 29 December and include the Hanford Site in Washington State, Idaho National Laboratory, Savannah River National Laboratory in South Carolina, Pantex Site in Texas and the Y-12 National Security Site and Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee. The FAA said it is considering additional requests from other federal security agencies to bar drones.

SOURCE: 18 December 2017, [Reuters](#)

##### **(U) Florida – US Coast Guard Seizes 15,000 Pounds of Cocaine**

(U) Key West – A 68-day patrol that ended Sunday for the Coast Guard Cutter Thetis at its home port in Key West turned out to be successful in terms of seized drugs. While in the Eastern Pacific with international law enforcement partners from Canada and elsewhere as part of the ongoing Operation Martillo (hammer), the crew of the Thetis helped seize 14,892 pounds of cocaine and 14 pounds of marijuana, the Coast Guard said. The seizures were part of eight interdictions that also resulted in the apprehension of 24 suspected smugglers, according to the agency.

SOURCE: 18 December 2017, [Sun-Sentinel](#)

##### **(U) Massachusetts – US Seeks Life Sentence for Man in ISIS Beheading Plot**

(U) Boston – US prosecutors asked a judge to impose a life sentence on a Massachusetts man found guilty of conspiring to support Islamic State in Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS) militants in a 2015 plot to attack police and behead a blogger who organized a “Draw Mohammed” contest. David Wright, 28, was found guilty in October of five criminal charges for planning with his uncle and a friend to travel to New York to attempt to behead conservative blogger Pamela Geller. Federal prosecutors said a life sentence, the stiffest possibility Wright faces, was necessary because it was unclear if he would plan other attacks if released from prison.

SOURCE: 19 December 2017, [Reuters](#)

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**(U) Virginia – Jury Convicts Ex-Metro Transit Police Officer of Trying to Help ISIS**

(U) Alexandria – A federal jury convicted a former police officer of the Metro Transit in Alexandria, Virginia yesterday for attempting to provide material support to ISIS. Nicholas Young, 38, could face up to 60 years in prison and will be sentenced on 23 February. He was accused of trying to help ISIS in July 2016 by purchasing and sending gift card codes that he hoped might help the group securely communicate with would-be recruits.

SOURCE: 18 December 2017, [Reuters](#)

**(U) Washington – Speeding Train Derails on New Route, Killing Three**

(U) DuPont – An Amtrak train derailed yesterday as it took a corner on a new stretch of track in Washington state at more than twice the speed limit, sending passenger cars tumbling from a bridge and killing at least three people. The train was on its inaugural run on a faster route from Seattle to Portland, Oregon, when 13 of its 14 cars jumped the tracks and tumbled onto a major highway near the town of DuPont. In addition to the three fatalities, about 100 people were taken to nearby hospitals, of whom 10 had serious injuries. Amtrak said there were people 86 aboard the train, 80 of them passengers.

SOURCE: 19 December 2017, [Reuters](#)

**(U) INTERNATIONAL****(U) Germany – At Least 65 Media Workers Killed Doing Their Jobs in 2017**

(U) Berlin – At least 65 media workers around the world have been killed doing their jobs this year, media freedom organization Reporters Without Borders said today. Among the dead were 50 professional journalists, seven citizen journalists and eight other media workers. The five most dangerous countries were Syria, Mexico, Afghanistan, Iraq and the Philippines. Of those killed, 35 died in regions where armed conflict is ongoing while 30 were killed outside of such areas. Thirty-nine of those killed were targeted for their journalistic work such as reporting on political corruption or organized crime while the other 26 were killed while working due to shelling and bomb attacks, for example.

SOURCE: 19 December 2017, [Reuters](#)

**(U) Saudi Arabia – Saudi Arabia Intercepts Houthi Missile Fired Towards Riyadh**

(U) Riyadh – Saudi air defenses intercepted a ballistic missile fired towards the capital Riyadh today, the Saudi-led coalition said, the latest attack by a Yemeni group that could escalate a proxy war between the kingdom and regional rival Tehran. There was no immediate report of casualties or damages. The Iran-aligned Houthi movement said the missile targeted the royal court at al-Yamama palace, where a meeting of Saudi leaders was under way, describing the attack as a new chapter in the conflict.

SOURCE: 19 December 2017, [Reuters](#)

**(U) United Kingdom – Britain Joins US in Blaming North Korea for ‘WannaCry’ Attack**

(U) London – Britain said North Korea was behind the ‘WannaCry’ cyber-attack that infected computers around the globe earlier this year, joining the United States in blaming Pyongyang for the ransomware incident. Britain’s National Cyber Security Centre had assessed it was highly likely that North Korea’s Lazarus hacking group was behind the one of the most significant cyber-attacks to hit the UK in terms of scale of disruption, the Foreign Office said. “The indiscriminate use of the WannaCry ransomware demonstrates North Korean actors using their cyber program to circumvent sanctions,” Foreign Office minister Tariq Ahmad said.

SOURCE: 19 December 2017, [Reuters](#)

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**UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY****(U) United Kingdom – UK Sees Growing Threat From Russian Propaganda, Cyber Attacks**

(U) London – Russia poses an increasing threat and is willing to use propaganda, subversion and cyber-attacks to undermine Britain and the rest of Europe, Britain's national security adviser said yesterday. Mark Sedwill, who is overseeing a review of Britain's security services, told a parliamentary committee that Russia is attempting to "sow dissension" and undermine democracy in Britain and other western nations. He said the threats from Russia included from unconventional warfare such as disinformation campaigns to the dangers posed from an increase in its military capability in the North Atlantic and in Eastern Europe.

SOURCE: 18 December 2017, [Reuters](#)

**(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.**

**(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL [STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV](mailto:STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV), OR CALL 916-636-2900.**

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